THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (RAO BIRENDRA SINGH): (a) Imported edible oil to the extent of 60 per cent of their requirement is being currently allotted to the vanaspati industry. This does not involve any subsidy presently.

(b) The import of edible oils during January-June, 1985 was substantially lower than the corresponding period of 1984. The allocation of imported oils to vanaspati industry has been reduced significantly since the beginning of March, 1985.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) In addition to lower imports than last year permission has been given to the vanaspati industry to use upto 10 per cent solvent extracted mustard/rapeseed oil since 1-6-1985.

Non-Fruit products under FPO

1630. SHRI SURESH KALMADI:
SHRI DHARAM CHANDER PRASHANT:

Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) when aerated waters and other synthetic soft drinks (no fruit stuff) were brought under the purview of the Fruit Product Order;

(b) the reasons for bringing non-fruit products under the purview of FPO when the name of FPO itself is explicit in stating FRUIT; and

(c) on what grounds FPO specifications are different from PFA and to what extent it has proved useful?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (RAO BIRENDRA SINGH): (a) These products were brought under the purview of the Fruit Products Order, 19.55 in October, 1972.

(b) The underlying consideration was that since these products competed with fruit products, their quality and marketing publicity should be suitably regulated under the Order.

(c) The Fruit Products Order lays down detailed specifications on different aspects bearing on the quality of the products covered by it and thereby supplements the regulatory control exercised under the Prevention of Food Adulteration Act, 1954.

Laksar Sugar Mill in Uttar Pradesh

1631. SHRI RAMANAND YADAV: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the custodian of the Laksar Sugar Mill in district Saharanpur (UP) had purchased firewood for the sugar mill boiler of the value of Rs. 75 lakh for one season;

(b) what is the crushing capacity of the sugar mill per day;

(c) whether it is a fact that the factory is running under heavy loss every year;

(d) whether the accounts of the mill have been audited;

(e) if the answer to parts (a), (b) and (c) above be in affirmative, and part (d) in negative what steps Government have taken to improve the working of the mill;

(f) what is the normal annual requirement of firewood of this factory to start crushing of sugarcane; and

(g) what are the reasons for not auditing the accounts of the mill for the years 1981-82, 1982-83, 1983-84 and 1984-85?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (RAO BIRENDRA SINGH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) The licensed cane crushing capacity of the mill is 1800 tonnes cane per day.

(c) The factory is incurring losses because of under utilisation of capacity, the plant and machinery being

very old and out-dated and the high and uneconomic State advised cane prices which the factory was required to pay etc.

(d) Statutory Auditors are auditing the accounts of the mill.

(e) The Government is taking all possible steps to improve the technical efficiency and overall performance of the mill.

(f) The normal annual requirement of firewood depends on various factors like cane to be crushed in a year; fibre per cent in cane; daily cane crushing, breakdown and stoppages etc., and therefore its annual requirement cannot be specified in advance.

(g) The erstwhile management of the factory as also the Auditors appointed by the erstwhile management did not hand over all the relevant records despite intense efforts. The detailed accounts prior to take-over thus had to be reconstructed which took considerable time. In addition accounts needed updating. These factors coupled with the delay contributed in obtaining no-objection certificates from previous Auditors as required under Company Act and consultation with the Department of Company Affairs and Comptroller and Auditor General of India as well as the Institute of the Chartered Accountants have contributed to the delay. However, the auditing of the accounts is now proceeding smoothly and the audits of the years mentioned are to be taken up in the near future.

Action against employers who violate labour laws

1632. SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA:

SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state whether Government propose to amend the Industrial Disputes Act, 1947 to deal with the employers who violate labour laws?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI T. ANJAIAH): The Industrial Disputes Act contains penal provisions for taking action against those who violate the law. There is at present no proposal to amend the Act in this regard.

Area under cultivation in Andhra Pradesh

1633. SHRI T. CHANDRASEKHAR REDDY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) what is the area in each district of Andhra Pradesh which has been brought under cultivation during the Sixth Plan;

(b) what is the area proposed to be brought under cultivation in each district of the State during the Seventh Plan; and

(c) what is the area remaining to be brought under cultivation in each district?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI CHANDULAL CHANDRAKAR): (a) to (c) The required information is being collected from the State Government.

Regional Programmes on second channel of Delhi Doordarshan

1634. PROF. B. RAMACHANDRA RAO: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Governmnet's consideration to use the second channel from Delhi exclusively for programmes in all the regional languages; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI V. N. GADGIL): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.